REMARKS

Interview summary

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of extending a telephonic interview on September 4, 2008. During the interview, a proposed draft amendment to claim 80, similar to that in the present Reply, was discussed in light of the prior art rejection in the Office Action dated June 30, 2008. No agreement has been reached regarding the patentability of the claims.

Claims

Claims 80-84, 87-92, 94-99, 102-107, 109-114, 117-122, 124, and 125 were pending and claims 1-23 were withdrawn when last examined. By the present Response, applicants amend claims 80-82, 84, 87-92, 94-99, 102-107, 109-114, 117-122, 124, 125 and add new claims 126-131. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment can be found at least in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, and the corresponding description in the specification.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 80, 96, and 111 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 27, and 42 respectively of copending Application No. 11/365,208. A terminal disclaimer is filed along with this Response to obviate the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 80-84, 87-92, 94-99, 102-107, 109-114, 117-122, and 124-125 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,758,259 to Lawler et al. ("Lawler"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 80, as amended, recites a method implemented by a terminal apparatus for processing information related to consumption of multimedia content in a digital broadcast system. The method includes receiving one or more group descriptions at the terminal apparatus from a server in the digital broadcast system. Each group description represents a

respective group of broadcast programs and describes actual program elements that are common in each broadcast program of the respective group, wherein each group description includes a title for the respective group and a group identifier that uniquely identifies the respective group of broadcast programs. The group identifier and at least a portion of each of the one or more group descriptions are stored in the terminal apparatus. The method also includes receiving a first program description and a first group description at the terminal apparatus from the server. The first program description describes content in a first broadcast program and includes (i) a title for the first broadcast program, (ii) a first object identifier that uniquely identifies the first broadcast program, and (iii) a first group reference that includes a first group identifier to identify a first group of broadcast programs to which the first broadcast program belongs, wherein the first group description describes actual program elements common in each broadcast program of the first group, and includes at least a title for the first group. At the terminal apparatus, the first group identifier is compared with the group identifier of each respective group of the one or more previously stored group descriptions if the first broadcast program is displayed on a display of the terminal apparatus. If the first group identifier is different from the previously stored group identifiers, the method includes storing in the terminal apparatus the first group identifier and at least a portion of the first group description about the actual program elements common in each broadcast program of the first group. If the first group identifier is the same as one of the previously stored group identifiers, the received first group description is not stored.

Lawler discloses an interactive television system in which a central node provides individualized program guides to viewers based on their preferences. *See, e.g.,* Lawler at Abstract. As the Examiner recognized, this central node stores the user preferences and the program descriptions which allegedly are related to the claimed subject matter. *See, e.g.,* Office Action of 6/30/2008 at 11. In contrast, the claim is directed to a method that is performed <u>at the terminal apparatus</u> which receives and stores group descriptions from the server about broadcast programs. To manage the program descriptions received in the digital broadcast system, the terminal apparatus compares the first group identifier of a newly received first group description with the group identifiers of the previously stored group

descriptions. If the first group identifier is different from the previously stored group identifiers, the terminal apparatus stores the first group identifier and at least a portion of the first group description. If the first group identifier is the same as one of the previously stored group identifiers, the newly received first group description is not stored. Lawler fails to disclose these limitations. Thus, claim 80 should be allowed.

Claims 81-84, 87-92, 94 and 95 depend from claim 80 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. These dependent claims, however, may be allowable for additional reasons. For example, claim 81 is directed to storing a usage history and claim 82 adds the advantageous feature of providing first link information in the usage history, wherein the first link information is configured to link the first group description to each user action that is related to the first broadcast program and listed in the usage history. When rejecting this claim, the Examiner points to Lawler's Figure 6 and the corresponding description (*see* Office Action of 6/30/2008 at 5), but those sections teach only comparing user preferences with characteristics of scheduled programming without disclosing any link information that is configured to link a group description to related user actions in a usage history. Thus, Lawler fails to disclose these limitations and claim 82 should be allowable.

Independent claims 96 and 111 recite a computer program product and a broadcast terminal, respectively, which require limitations similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 80. Because Lawler fails to disclose those limitations, claims 96 and 111 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 80. Claims 97-99, 102-107, 109, 110, 112-114, 117-122, 124 and 125 are dependent claims which are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

New Claims

Claims 126-131 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found at least in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, and the corresponding description in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 126-131 are allowable.

Claim 126 recites a method implemented by a terminal apparatus for processing information related to consumption of multimedia content in a digital broadcast system. The method includes receiving one or more group descriptions at the terminal apparatus from a server in the digital broadcast system, each group description representing a respective group of broadcast programs and describing actual program elements that are common in each broadcast program of the respective group, wherein each group description includes a group identifier that uniquely identifies the respective group of broadcast programs. The group identifier and at least a portion of each of the one or more group descriptions are stored in the terminal apparatus. The method further includes receiving a first program description and a first group description at the terminal apparatus from the server, the first program description describing content in a first broadcast program and including (i) a first object identifier that uniquely identifies the first broadcast program and (ii) a first group reference that includes a first group identifier to identify a first group of broadcast programs to which the first broadcast program belongs, wherein the first group description describes actual program elements common in each broadcast program of the first group. At the terminal apparatus, the first group identifier is compared with the group identifier of each respective group of the one or more previously stored group descriptions and, if the first group identifier corresponds to one of the previously stored group identifiers, the first broadcast program is linked to the corresponding one of the previously stored group descriptions without storing the received first group description.

As discussed above, Lawler fails to disclose comparing, at the terminal apparatus, the first group identifier with the group identifier of each respective group of the one or more previously stored group descriptions. Lawler also fails to disclose linking, if the first group identifier corresponds to one of the previously stored group identifiers, the first broadcast program to the corresponding one of the previously stored group descriptions without storing the received first group description. Thus, claim 126 should be allowable. Claim 127 depends from claim 126, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

New independent claims 128 and 130 recite a computer program product and a broadcast terminal, respectively, which require limitations similar to those discussed above

with reference to claim 126. Because Lawler fails to disclose those limitations, claims 128 and 130 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 126. Claims 129 and 131 are dependent claims which are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7493.

Certificate of Mailing

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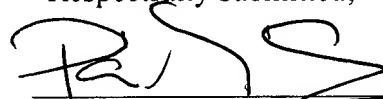
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